



Rehabilitation News

Improving Public Safety Through Evidence-based Rehabilitation

Highlights

Historic rehabilitation reforms launched at CDCR

California Logic Model—evidence-based rehabilitation

Inside this issue:

Performance Accountability 2

Substance Abuse Treatment Slots Up 2

Education Program Utilization Increases 2

COMPAS Assessment Tool Launched 3

CROB Receives Proof Project Tour of Solano 3

Volume 1, Issue 1

Spring 2009

Historic rehabilitation reforms launched at CDCR

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) has launched historic reforms in its rehabilitation programming to reduce recidivism and improve public safety.

These reforms, a result of Assembly Bill (AB) 900, the Public Safety and Offender Rehabilitation Services Act of 2007, signed by Governor Schwarzenegger, move California away from an outdated model of prisoner incarceration to institutions that help offenders succeed so that they don't commit new crimes.

AB 900 achievements so far include:

- Launched key components of the California Logic Model.
- Activated 2,000 new substance abuse treatment slots, to be fully operational by June 2009.
- Increased education program utilization and obtained additional rehabilitation services.

- Launched a new assessment tool.
- Implementing a prison-to-employment program.

AB 900 provides the foundation for CDCR needs to become one of the top correctional systems in the nation. Improved offender success means a safer California.



Governor Schwarzenegger congratulates graduating firefighters at the California Institution for Women.

California Logic Model—evidence-based rehabilitation

The California Logic Model is a detailed, sequential description of how California will apply evidence-based principles and practices to deliver effective rehabilitation programs.

In June 2007, the Expert Panel on Adult Offender and Recidivism Reduction

Programming recommended the California Logic Model as this state's approach to integrating proven practices into its rehabilitation programming. The California Logic Model follows these eight steps :

- I. Assess High Risk.

2. Assess Needs.
3. Develop Behavior Management Plan.
4. Deliver Programs.
5. Measure Progress.
6. Prep for Re-entry.
7. Reintegrate.
8. Follow-Up.

Performance Accountability and Improvement



Key to the success of CDCR's new rehabilitation model is increased effectiveness and utilization of current academic, educational, substance abuse and other rehabilitative programming. CDCR is moving toward a data-driven, rational methodology to assure that programming and resources are used to meet the greatest needs.

The Performance Accountability and Improvement Process (PAIP) is part of AB 900, Track I, designed to increase utilization of current programs and better prepare institutions to implement the California Logic Model. Performance goals are to increase attendance in educational programs to 75% by June 30, 2009;

increase the number of inmates who complete a program by promoting or earning a diploma or vocational certificate; and improve literacy. As of March 1, 2009, 14 institutions, including wardens and other top managers, participated in the PAIP process. Meeting dates for the remaining 18 institutions are being scheduled.

CDCR has now met the benchmark of activating 2,000 new substance use disorder treatment slots by the end of December 2008, to be fully operational in June 2009.

Substance abuse treatment slots up — meeting AB 900 goal

CDCR achieved a key AB 900 benchmark by establishing 2,000 new in-prison Substance Abuse Programs slots by the end of December 2008, to be fully operational in June 2009. In September, 200 new treatment slots at Leo Chesney Correctional facility were opened. In December,

opening of the remaining slots began at: California State Prison, Solano; California Correctional Institution; Avenal State Prison; California Institution for Men; Valley State Prison for Women; and Central California Women's Facility. CDCR is gradually increasing slots at these sites.

Offender Mentor Certification Program
This new AB 900 program at Solano equips 50 inmates serving long terms to acquire California Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors certification and provide substance abuse counseling and mentorship for offenders.

Academic and vocational program utilization increases



CDCR has come a long way in reaching the goal set by AB 900 to reach 75% utilization of its academic and vocational programs by June 30, 2009. Offender utilization of academic classes increased from 50% in March 2007, the baseline from which to measure reforms due to AB 900,

to an average of 68% in the first 6 months of FY 2008-09. Over the same time period, utilization of vocational classes grew from 42% to 62%. There was also a significant increase in GED certificates awarded, vocational courses completed, and vocational industry certificates awarded.

Strong offender participation in educational programs is central to CDCR's efforts to help offenders prepare for successful re-entry into their communities, improving their ability to obtain employment and decreasing their likelihood of reoffending.

COMPAS Assessment Tool Launched

Correctional Offender Management Profiling for Alternative Sanctions (COMPAS) is a research-based, risk and needs assessment tool which, for the first time, allows CDCR to use evidence-based principles to assign offenders to appropriate programs.

COMPAS consists of:

- A series of questions used to determine risk levels and needs.
- Data on the inmate's history of substance abuse, education, family background, criminal activity, and social functioning.

For example, the offender is asked, "Was

your father (or a father figure who principally raised you) ever arrested?" "In the last couple of years, how many of your friends or acquaintances were taking drugs regularly?" "Do you currently have a skill, trade or profession at which you usually find work?"

Identifies criminogenic needs

COMPAS assessments must be used to place inmates in programs that will address their criminogenic needs, such as alcohol and drug abuse disorders, anti-social attitudes and beliefs, educational deficits, and family dysfunction, in order to aid in their reentry to

society and reduce their chance of reoffending. CDCR trained Correctional Counselors at Reception Centers (RC) to complete the COMPAS assessment as part of the intake and classification process.

This assessment at intake process was piloted at Deuel Vocational Institution in October 2008 and completed at all other RCs by February 2009. The next step is to roll out the COMPAS instrument to all 33 prisons, which will allow electronic transfer of the data from the RCs and access to the automated case plan (within the COMPAS tool).



"Assessing offender risk levels and needs is a crucial component of effective programming. Doing so allows correctional agencies to assign offenders to the programs that will most likely benefit them."

Expert Panel

CROB receives "proof project" tour of Solano State Prison

The AB 900 Implementation Team and California State Prison (CSP), Solano executive and custody staff provided a presentation to the California Rehabilitation Oversight Board (CROB) on November 3, 2008.

CROB was established by AB 900 to oversee progress in rehabilitation programs.

CSP-Solano is participating in the "Proof Project," which is testing Califor-

nia's newly designed rehabilitation programming model, the California Logic Model. The Proof Project also includes Deuel Vocational Institution; the Northern California Re-entry; and Parole Region 1.

The CROB meeting began with a tour of CSP-Solano given by Vince Cullen, then Associate Warden, and Mike Valdez, Supervisor of Correctional Education, the

Solano Proof Project leaders.

Warden Kris Sisto explained Solano's numerous reform successes, including reducing overcrowding, increasing utilization of programming space, launching the COMPAS assessment tool, and training staff. Information on obstacles overcome and successes will help other institutions implement AB 900 reforms.



Substance abuse recovery class at CSP-Solano

California Department of
Corrections and
Rehabilitation
Adult Programs
1515 S Street
Sacramento, CA 95811-7243

Phone: (916) 327-0277
Fax: (916) 324-4577
Peggy.Bengs@cdcr.ca.gov

[www.cdcr.ca.gov/
rehabilitation](http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/rehabilitation)

AB 900 — Historic Reforms to Reduce Recidivism and Strengthen Public Safety

On May 2, 2007, Governor Schwarzenegger signed AB 900, the Public Safety and Offender Rehabilitation Services Act of 2007. AB 900 moves California away from an outdated model of prisoner incarceration to institutions that create opportunities for change – to reduce the rate at which inmates released from prison commit more crimes. The Act is a major effort to reform California's prison system by reducing prison overcrowding and increasing rehabilitative programming. The reforms use evidence-based rehabilitation – academic, vocational, substance abuse and other programs – to help offenders succeed when they integrate back into their homes and communities so that they do not return to a life of crime. AB 900 provides the foundation CDCR needs to become one of the top correctional systems in the nation. Improving offender success strengthens public safety.



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT *of*
CORRECTIONS AND
REHABILITATION**



Adult Rehabilitation

www.CDCR.ca.gov/rehabilitation